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INFO COMJTF-B PALMEROLA AB HO  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 13797

Dept. of State, RPS/IPS, Margaret P. Grafeld, Dir  
☒ Release ( ) ☐ Excise ( ) ☐ Deny ( ) ☐ Declassify  
Date 2/22/02 Exemption         

E.O. 12356: NA  
TAGS: PHUM, PINS, HO  
SUBJECT: DRAFT PRESS GUIDANCE ON ALLEGED DEATH LIST

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 13474 (DTG 042307Z SEP 86)

1. FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY'S DRAFT OF SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE CONCERNING ALLEGATIONS OF "DEATH SQUADS" AND POLITICAL "HIT LISTS" IN HONDURAS.

2. Q. WHAT IS THE RESPONSE TO PRESS REPORTS THAT HONDURAN DEATH SQUADS ARE BEING ACTIVATED AND TO THE PUBLICATION OF A "DEATH LIST" OF 15 PROMINENT HONDURANS?

R. THE ALLEGATIONS OF DEATH SQUAD ACTIVITIES AND OF THE EXISTENCE OF A "DEATH LIST" ARE BOTH TOTALLY UNSUBSTANTIATED. SUCH BASELESS CHARGES APPEAR TO BE PART OF A POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED EFFORT TO SLANDER HONDURAS' RECORD ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH IS ONE OF CONSISTENT PROGRESS. THE MOST RECENT DEPARTMENT OF STATE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT INDICATES THAT THERE WERE NO PUBLIC ACCUSATIONS OF POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED DEATHS OR ANY DOCUMENTED DISAPPEARANCES IN 1985; NO EVIDENCE OF

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EITHER POLITICALLY-MOTIVATED DEATHS OR OF DISAPPEARANCES HAS COME TO THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IN 1986. THE DEMOCRATICALLY-ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT AZCONA, WITH THE FIRM SUPPORT OF THE ARMED FORCES, HAS AFFIRMED ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS ITS UTMOST RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

3. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE CHARGES THAT THE CIA THROUGH THE "CONTRAS" CONTINUE TO COLLABORATE WITH SPECIAL UNITS IN THE ARMED FORCES IN THREATENING AND ELIMINATING POLITICAL OPPONENTS IN HONDURAS?

R. THE US GOVERNMENT IS NOT AND HAS NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN SUCH ALLEGED ACTIVITIES.

(DRAFTED:USIS:ASKOP) PASTORINO

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